

TOP 50 FAMILY BUSINESS LEADERS

Leading edge

Whether its family members taking over top leadership positions, or businesses who've beaten Apple in corporate reputation rankings, we've got the leaders steering their family businesses in innovative and interesting directions

Welcome to the Top 50 Family Business Leaders List 2016 – the sixth time *CampdenFB* has compiled its list of leading lights. This year we've examined family businesses under the usual criteria of governance, growth, and innovation, but we've also placed a strong focus on sustainability and diversity. This could be in the composition of leadership of their business, boards or senior management, the establishment of special initiatives to promote equality and diversity, partnerships or other efforts around sustainability. Some businesses have more than one leader represented – this is because we want to recognise the family in family businesses, whether it be a husband and wife team, or siblings sharing executive roles.

We have almost entirely new names in 2016. That's not because last year's leaders have fallen from favour, many are still at the top of their game – rather it's a reflection of how we strive to give exposure to those 'hidden champions'. We spend 12 months looking for the family business heads who are making a mark in different parts of the globe.

New, exciting faces include: Marcus Blackmore, whose eponymous Australian healthcare company saw revenues soar 36% in 2015, and Danny Wegman whose family-owned supermarket chain beat Google and Apple to be ranked the top US company for social responsibility by 27,000 survey respondents. It's difficult to miss out 39-year-old Sabrina Chao who has been appointed chair of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association after she took the helm at her family's company in 2003.

Still, there are several who have been included again. The irrepressible Bill Marriott remains as he tries to steer through the \$13.6 billion acquisition of Starwood Hotels & Resorts. Despite a tough retail environment, chairman Gareth Ackerman is again included as he guided South Africa's second largest supermarket chain resolutely – turnover was up in the six months to August 2015 by 8.5%.

We'd like to acknowledge the assistance of Guillermo Salazar, partner and chief executive at Exaudi Family Business Consulting. Salazar suggested a host of Latin American businesses to research. We hope you enjoy it and do let us know of any leaders we should consider for 2017.

WILLIAM E. (CHIP) CONNOR II

AGE	66
COMPANY	WILLIAM E. CONNOR GROUP
ROLE	CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE
REVENUES	\$2 BILLION
COUNTRY	CHINA (HONG KONG)
	ASIA PACIFIC
NOMINATED FOR	CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Recognised by the Ethisphere Institute, a leading US business ethics think-tank, as one of the 2016 World's Most Ethical Company for the fifth year running, William E. Connor Group makes a dedicated effort around ethically sourcing products. Second-gen Chip Connor leads the merchandise-sourcing organisation that operates in 20 countries, and practices its own ethical standards internally. Every employee must go through ethics training each year.